

Solon Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 2022 7:00 P.M.
Solon Township Hall
9191 S. Kasson St., Cedar, MI 49621

DRAFT

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Jim Lautner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: Supervisor Jim Lautner, Treasurer Joan Gauthier, Clerk Shirley Mikowski and Trustee Steve Yoder.

Absent: Trustee Pat Deering (excused)

Guests present: Ray Pleva, Diane Pelak, Nancy Popa, Dar Doorlag, Steve Baase, Jackie Baase, Dale Gauthier, Kelly Claar, Mary Taylor, Judy Janosik, Karen Smith and Charles Smith.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the July 14, 2022 regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Public Comment

Dar Doorlag is from Centerville Township and is working with Nancy Popa. She is in favor of the plan that will be presented.

6. LL Lake Association/Nancy Popa

Nancy Popa is a member of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association Board and is the Chair for the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Committee. The committee is made up of eight representatives from townships around the lake and some representatives from the LL Lake Association Board. Diane Pelak is the Solon Township representative. Lake Leelanau is now the home of the Eurasian water milfoil and it will never go away. It is the most invasive species in North America. If left unattended it will create a mat of vegetation. Most of it is spread by boats and boat trailers coming in on launches. There are fourteen public access sites on Lake Leelanau. Mrs. Popa gave the following report (see attached) and asked this be an agenda item for next month.

Joan Gauthier said we already have a boat wash station at the Cedar River. John Popa however stated in the Leelanau Enterprise that we did not. Mrs. Popa said the boat wash station the township currently has could be moved to another site. There is a solar powered high pressured air system at the Bingham launch and was used 156 times, so the word is getting out there.

Ray Pleva noted kayaks and canoes can carry the milfoil as well. Mrs. Popa said they do collect, but not as props do. Mary Taylor asked if the estimated cost includes the yearly fee for upgrading the software and if it has a pumping station that has to be pumped out. Mrs. Popa it does not have to be pumped out and the estimated cost does not include any ongoing maintenance.

Joan Gauthier said using a high pressure water system would cause the spray off of the boats to go in the swamp. Mrs. Popa explained it would have to be set up at least 100 feet from the water, and anything that comes off the boats, would dry up on the ground.

Ray Pleva said that our engineers would be setting up the station. Shirley Mikowski was concerned on who would be paying for the engineer, and Mr. Pleva said that it would be a part of the Cedar Waterways Project.

Nancy Popa asked the township board to consider their role in keeping the invasive species at bay.

7. Correspondence

- Shirley Mikowski received a FOIA regarding the election from Daniel Hartman. It was recommended by the Bureau of elections to work with the township attorney.
- Steve Yoder received an email from Lyn and Tom Irvine regarding the rowing club (see attached).

Joan Gauthier said the rowing club has saved the township a lot of money with all of the repairs and maintenance they have done at the Solon Township Beach Park.

8. Treasurer's Report/Authorization for Payment of Vouchers:

Joan Gauthier reported she is still working with Huntington Bank to reverse the service charges. Huntington Bank Checking \$147,469.53, ARPA Funds included in checking: \$116,581.12, Available in Checking Account: \$30,888.41, Huntington Bank General Savings \$202,801.21, Total Funds Available: \$233,689.62, Huntington Bank Road Improvement Fund \$10,344.50, Huntington Bank Fire Fund CD \$42,711.90, Huntington Bank Fire Fund Savings \$37,684.48, Total Fire Sinking \$80,396.38, Huntington Bank Sidewalk Fund \$13,285.55, Huntington Bank Cedar River Marina Project \$24,241.16, Total other Township Funds Available: \$128,267.59. Total Current Assets: \$361,957.21, Parks and Recreation \$8,199.50. Voucher #'s 14585-14645 were submitted for payment. Motion by Steve Yoder and seconded by Steve Yoder to accept the Treasurer's report and pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Committee Reports:

Steve Yoder reported the Planning Commission did not meet in August. Their next meeting is on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

Kelly Claar reported the Parks and Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 6:00 P.M., at the Solon Schoolhouse.

- They have decided to cancel the Schoolhouse Event scheduled for September 11, 2022. At their last meeting, they had three members present and three members that were no call no show.
- A complaint was received about the rowers using a megaphone amongst other things. Kelly said she has rowed with them, and they do not use a megaphone but a microphone. Kelly wrote a response to the complaint and submitted it to the board.
- Kelly drew up a maintenance schedule. Kelly noted the Cedar Chamber of Commerce has asked James Claar to do other maintenance. Mary Taylor said according to the ballplayers it has been a rough year with the ballfields and would like permission to speak with a specialist of what the ball diamonds might need. Joan Gauthier said it is difficult to have a mowing schedule because the weather is unpredictable. Steve Yoder heard the biggest complaint is the weeds, but the ball fields have been extremely rough. Steve supports getting a specialist 100%. Joan said if the Chamber is asking the mower to do other work than the Chamber should be paying for it. Jim Lautner said the township is only responsible for paying for the mowing. The roughness is not because of the ground; it is because of the weather. When you get steady rains every week, the ground stays softer. If you cut dry grass when it is in stress, and cut it too short, it will kill it. This is nothing we can control. Jim said it would not be a problem for them to get an expert to look at the ballfields.
- They have more pop cans to return. The program is dwindling because they can't get help with this program. Kelly and Mary are the only two returning the cans.
- Kelly called to have another porta jon placed by the handicap one because of the overflow. Shirley Mikowski will follow up.
- Kelly noted that the whole point of installing the boat wash stations was about education. The software is \$1,000.00 a year for the proposed boat wash station, and this township does not have staffing to maintain it.
- There is \$2,300.00 of unused grant funding which could be used for signage.
- There will be no meeting in August.

Shirley Mikowski shared her concerns with the boat wash station that it may end up being like the recycling site with Solon Township paying for all of the maintenance cost.

Joan Gauthier said the portajon is overflowed since the public restroom sign was put up.

The Parks Committee will try to meet with the ball leagues to establish a maintenance schedule for next year.

Zoning Administrator Written Report is attached.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Township Hall/Repairs

There was nothing to report.

B. Parks

1. Recycling Site

a. Cameras/Contract

Jim Lautner said Trudy Galla is asking Solon Township to extend the recycling agreement for one year, but there has been no official paperwork sent yet. Joan Gauthier said the recycling site is a lot cleaner since the group of volunteers has been picking up the debris around the bins three times a week. Dale Gauthier said he found someone had emptied out their freezer and dumped a bunch of package meat behind the small green dumpster.

b. Ray Pleva

Ray Pleva is working with Trudy Galla in finding a different site for recycling. Ray said Ron and Lori Novak own 60 acres on County Road 616/ Bellinger Road west of the Cedar Post Office. The property is zoned Agriculture/Conservation and will need to be rezoned to Commercial. An additional 80' to a maximum of 100' of fill would be needed. The existing driveway is 24' wide, so the county will need to review it. To add the extra fill it will need approval from Steve Christensen, Drain Commissioner and approval from Robyn Schmidt, EGLE (Environment Great Lake & Energy). Joan Gauthier asked why Ron and Lori Novak would want to have the recycling site on their property unless to benefit from getting the property filled and having it rezoned to commercial. Joan is concerned they would have the recycling site for five years and then quit. Solon Township will no longer be responsible for any of the cost of the recycling site and will be completely Solid Waste Council's responsibility. The recycling agreement may have to be extended until the new site is up and running.

C. Fire Department

1. Strategic Plan

Chris Comeaux was not able to attend this evening's meeting, but asked that the board approve the Strategic Plan. Joan Gauthier shared concerns on approving this without Solon Township having a millage, and also concerned if they build a new station if this township is responsible for paying for the new station. This is just a plan and not a budget. The Interlocal Agreement states that Kasson and Cleveland Townships can build a new station but this township is not responsible for paying for a new station. Joan also asked if we ever received estimated costs for repairs and upgrades needed for this fire station. The Solon and Centerville Township Supervisors still need to meet with Chief Doornbos to determine the needs of the building. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and seconded by Joan Gauthier to approve the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan for Cedar Area Fire and Rescue. Motion carried 4-0.

D. Cedar River Project

1. Buoys

Ray Pleva, Diane Pelak, Larry Fleis, Brian Rowley from Fleis and Vandenbrink, Tom Nelson, Executive Director from the Leelanau Conservancy and five of his staff members met on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to explain to the Leelanau Conservancy the importance of placing the buoys and no wake signs in Cedar River to help the water levels from rising. There is an overgrowth of weeds and silt forming at the mouth of the river which is affecting the flow. Three sides of Cedar is surrounded by the swamp and the blockage is affecting the drainage of small lakes and Cedar Swamp. Diane Pelak has been in contact with the Conservancy since the meeting, and she got the impression that the Conservancy would be in favor of placing the buoys and no wake signs. They are also in favor of the boat wash stations and there may be some grant funding. Cedar River is not designated as a wake so a permit will have to be obtained. Ray Pleva said the Conservancy is interested in helping with the Cedar Waterways Project and want to be involved in obtaining the permit. Joan Gauthier asked about the no wake

signs and wouldn't that cause the weeds to grow. That is the purpose of the buoys to keep the boat traffic following the same path. Jim Lautner believes it has helped to have Fleis and Vandenbrink involved.

E. Zoning Ordinance

This has been tabled.

F. Drainage District

Jim Lautner said the estimated amount is \$7,862.50 for 20 years plus interest that Solon Township may have to pay as an assessment for the Lake Bluffs Drainage District. The original date for the Leelanau County Drain Commissioner to hold a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries and a Day of Review of Apportionments changed from Thursday July 28, 2022 to Monday, August 15, 2022. This will be held at the Leelanau County Government Center from 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. and anyone can attend. At the Day of Review, the Drain Commissioner shall consider proofs and allegations and shall carefully reconsider and review the description of land comprised within the drainage district, carefully reconsider and review the apportionment of benefits, and define and equalize the apportionment as is just and equitable. Drain assessments are collected in the same manner as property taxes and will appear on the winter tax bill. Leelanau County and Solon Township are to be assessed at-large for the Lake Bluffs Drain District. This drainage district will only benefit the property owners living on Lake Bluffs Drive. Jackie Baase asked where this is located and is just before Parker Road.

11. New Business

There was none.

12. Public Comment

Judy Janosik asked about the progress with Cedar Cove. Jim Lautner said there has been ten land permits issued so far. There is a big septic going in and underground electric. They are waiting on Consumer's Power.

Ray Pleva asked how soon the township will let Trudy Galla know what the townships decision will be on moving forward on the recycling site. Jim Lautner said we are waiting to hear from Trudy Galla.

Kelly Claar said the Annual Cedar River Canoe and Kayak Trip headed up by Adam Begley is this Sunday, August 14, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. There is a Perennial Farm Ecosystem Conference on September 9, 2022 from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. at the Leelanau County Government Center. Kelly said there is a three person board with the Drainage District and as far as she knows, there are two drainage districts in Solon Township. There is an opportunity to dispute it.

13. Announcements

Jim Lautner reminded everyone about the Polka Fest is the last weekend in August. Bishop Jeffrey Walsh will be celebrating the Mass on Sunday under the tent. Molly B will be playing on Thursday night.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Joan Gauthier and seconded by Shirley Mikowski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley I. Mikowski/Solon Township Clerk

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

Solon Twp. Board Meeting

August 11, 2022

Nancy Popa Lake Leelanau Lake
Association



1

Scope of the Problem



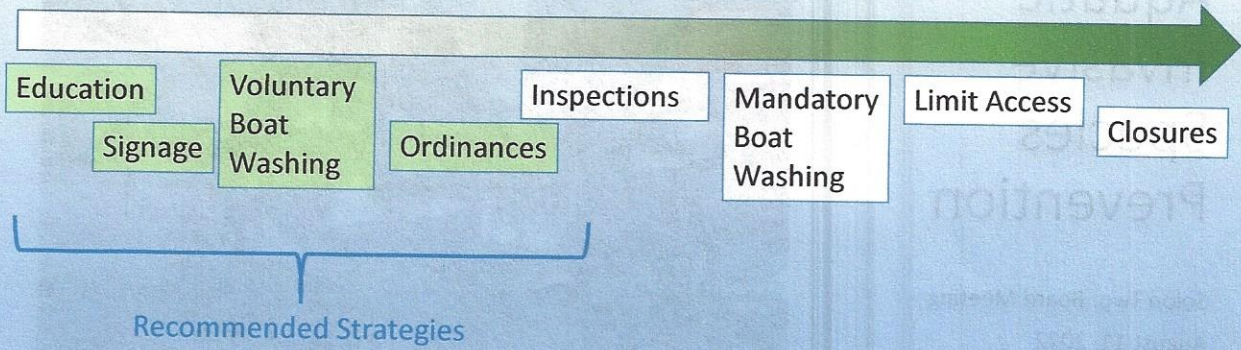
- 1-DNR Narrows
- 2-East Leland Park-Leland Twp
- 3-Bartholomew Park-Leland Twp
- 4-DNR Leland River
- 5-Stander Marine-Private
- 6-St. Mary's St.-Road End-Leland Twp
- 7-LL RV Park-Private
- 8-Hohnke Road End -Centerville Twp
- 9-DNR West
- 10-Leelanau Pines RV-Private
- 11-Solon Twp Park
- 12-Cedar River Park
- 13-Perrins Landing-Road End-Solon Twp
- 14-DNR Bingham

4 DNR Launches
3 Private Launches
3 Road Ends
4 Township Parks

2

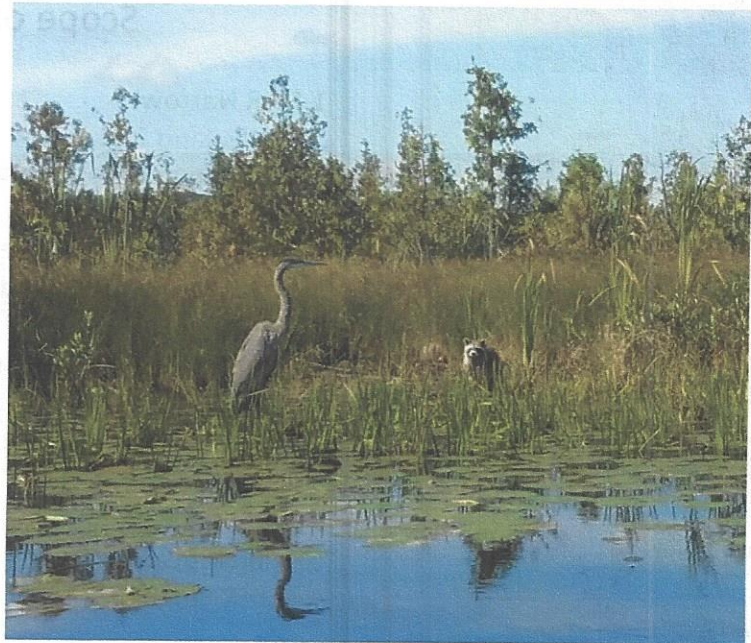
AIS Prevention Continuum of Solutions

Public acceptance higher on the left
Solutions on the right are more effective



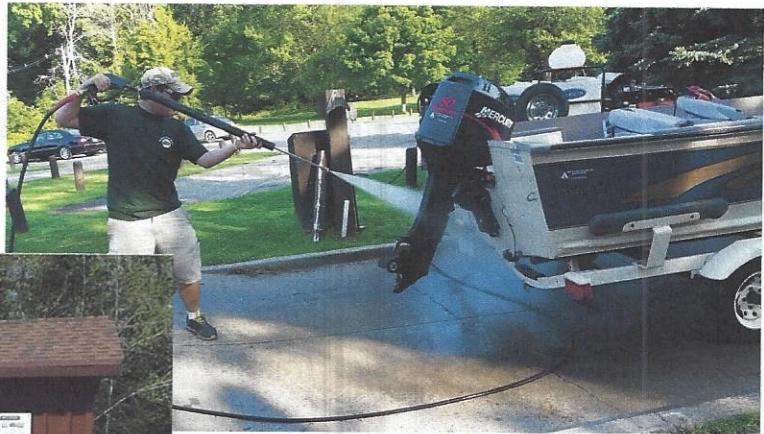
3

Protection of the Cedar River Preserve



4

High Pressure Water Wash Station



5

6 Recommendations

1. Long term education campaign carried out by the Lake Association-newsletters, social media, events and demonstrations.
2. Consistent signage at every access point
3. AIS Nuisance Ordinance in every township with a boat launch.
4. High-pressure water cleaning stations at 3 of 4 DNR launches and Cedar River Park
5. Township provides volunteers to assist in education campaigns and signage installation
6. All 6 townships on the lake share costs for the prevention strategy



6

Estimated Costs AIS Prevention Strategy

Category	Detail	Total Costs
Boat Wash Station	Cedar River Park	\$50,000
Signage	5 Township Parks, 2 Road Ends	\$2,100
Volunteers	Training, Volunteer Coordination	\$0
Ordinance Development		\$0
Communication		\$0
Total		<u>\$52,100</u>

7

Request

- Begin township discussions regarding the support for the AIS Prevention Strategy
- Schedule a follow-up meeting to get additional questions answered
- Discuss Strategy with other Townships
- Attend October Township Supervisor's Mtg.



8

Fwd: Northern Michigan Rowing Club

Steve Yoder <stephen7yoder@gmail.com>

Thu 8/11/2022 7:27 PM

To: Shirley Mikowski <sidmikowski@hotmail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lynn Irvine** <lmsikora@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 29, 2022 at 8:57 PM

Subject: Northern Michigan Rowing Club

To: Patdeering1@aol.com <Patdeering1@aol.com>, solonparks@gmail.com
<solonparks@gmail.com>, <stephen7yoder@gmail.com>

As property owners adjacent to Solon Township Park, I want to let you know how pleased we have been to have the NMRC using the park this year. The rowing club members have been polite and respectful of both property owners and park users. They have also done a great job of keeping the park and parking areas clean and well kept. It has been delightful to watch the boats out on the lake and adds to the beautiful Leelanau scenery. We hope that this use of the park by the Rowing club can continue. We are pleased to consider them neighbors.

Lynn and Tom Irvine

SOLON TOWNSHIP ZA'S MONTHLY PERMIT SUMMARY

PERIOD: JULY 2022

DATE	PERMIT #	NAME	USE	RECEIPT CK.#	AMOUNT
7/13/2022	LUP 22-14	PAPINEAU	LAND USE	202214	229 \$ 140.00
010-700-021-00	6848 E. LAKE BLUFFS	NEW DWELLING PORCH PATIO		1,915 S.F.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-14A	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202214A	8127 \$ 115.00
010-220-001-00	9220 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,368 S.F.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-15	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202215	8127 \$115.00
010-220-002-00	9226 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,520 S.F.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-16	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202216	8127 \$115.00
010-220-003-00	9232 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,520 S.F.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-17	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202217	8127 \$115.00
010-220-004-00	9240 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,520 s.f.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-18	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202218	8127 \$115.00
010-220-005-00	9246 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,520 s.f.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-19	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202219	8127 \$115.00
010-220-006-00	9252 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,368 S.F.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-20	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202220	8127 \$115.00
010-220-007-00	9260 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,520 S.F.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-21	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202221	8127 \$115.00
010-220-008-00	9266 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,520 S.F.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-22	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202222	8127 \$115.00
010-220-009-00	9270 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,368 S.F.	
7/12/2022	LUP 22-23	CEDAR COVE ESTATES	LAND USE	202223	8127 \$115.00
010-220-010-00	9276 S. FLASKA DR.	NEW DWELLING DECK		1,520 S.F.	
7/31/2022	LUP 22-24	THUROW	LAND USE	202224	619 \$50.00
010-005-008-10	9456 S. LAKE SHORE DR.	DWELLING ADDITION		168 S.F.	
7/31/2022	LUP 22-25	ZELINSKI	LAND USE	202225	6996 \$165.00
010-031-011-35	13662 S. CEDAR RUN	NEW DWELLING ATT.GARAGE COV.PORCH		5,600 S.F.	
7/31/2022	LUP 22-26	WILTSE	LAND USE	202226	14085 \$180.00
010-020-008-00	11199 S. CEDAR RD.	NEW DWELLING ATT.GARAGE COV.DECK SCR.PORCH		4,640 S.F.	
7/28/22	PLA 22-03	MAJERCZYK & KERR	PROP. LIN PLA	20220	4063 \$50.00
010-029-002-10	3831 & 3863 E. WHITE RD.	PROPERTY LINE ADJUSTMENT			
010-020-024-10					
TOTAL					\$ 1,735.00

SIGNED:

Timothy A. Cypher

DATE:

8/7/2022

TIMOTHY A. CYPHER
 SOLON TOWNSHIP ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
 231-360-2557
TIM@ALLPERMITS.COM